

REMARKS

Applicant's Response

The Examiner has indicated that the Applicant's response (in the Summary and in the text of the Office Action) was filed on November 22, 2002. Applicant would like to indicate that the response was filed on December 21, 2001. Applicant assumes that this is just a typographical error made by the Examiner because the Examiner made reference to "separate" which was added to claim 19 in the December 21, 2001 Office Action. However, if Examiner has not considered the response filed on December 21, 2001, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the Applicant and the December 21, 2001 response will be provided to the Examiner.

Claims

Applicant has canceled claims 19-30 and 34-37. Applicant has added claims 38-51 that are supported by the specification. The specification enables a person of ordinary skill the art to make and use the invention as now claimed.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the Examiner has indicated that the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Examiner has stated, that "the device, automatic acting clamping apparatus, eccentric clamping apparatus,

centrifugal clamping apparatus, rapid clamping apparatus, socket connection, bayonet connection, single pitch screw, multi-pitch screw, single pitch nut thread, multi-pitch nut thread, rectangular thread, trapezoidal thread must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).”

As to the device, the automatic clamping apparatus, the eccentric clamping apparatus, and the centrifugal clamping apparatus are shown in the existing drawings. The elements can be found in the drawings as follows:

“the device”	Figure 1 Ref No. 5 and Figure 3 Ref No. 11
“automatic clamping apparatus”	Figure 4 Ref No. 13, 14, 15, and 16
“eccentric clamping apparatus”	Figure 4 Ref No. 13, 14, 15 and 16
“centrifugal clamping apparatus”	Figure 4 Ref No. 13, 14, 15 and 16

Applicant has enclosed a proposed drawing amendment. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.83(a) a rapid clamping apparatus, socket connection, bayonet connection, single pitch screw, multi-pitch screw, single pitch nut thread, multi-pitch nut thread, rectangular thread, trapezoidal thread are represented in a labeled rectangular box as the detailed illustration of these elements are not essential for a proper understanding of the invention.

Applicant has complied with the Examiner’s request for a proposed drawing correction. Applicant believes that this objection is no longer applicable to the invention as now claimed.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification as failing to provide a proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Applicant does not understand the Examiner’s objection on

this point or what the Examiner wants corrected. The Applicant has canceled claims 19-30 and 34-37 and added claims 38-51 and therefore the Applicant believes that this objection is no longer applicable.

However, if the Examiner does not believe that there is support in the specification for a "separate carrier ring" applicant would like to point out the support for a "separate carrier ring."

A carrier ring is widely described in the specification and indicated by reference number 4 b in the drawings. From a description of the embodiment shown in figure 4, that is on page 13, lines 13 to 24, it is inherent that the carrier ring must be a separate item. Further, on page 5, lines 12 to 15 it is stated that the parts of the flap-type grinding tool can be separated.

On page 9, from lines 29 on, it is stated that a carrier ring 4 b is to be fastened to metal disc 4 a. It is a matter of logic that there must be two separate parts before one can fasten them together. Further, in the paragraph starting on page 11, line 9 of the specification, the carrier ring 4 b and the disc 4 a are made from different materials, which necessarily requires that both parts being separate from each other. Also the description of the embodiment shown in figure 4 shows an example for the device for connecting the flap-type grinding tool to a drive apparatus in the form of a hole 5 in the core 13 to receive a mounting mandrel of a drive apparatus. Further it is indicated that the core element 13 can be made from aluminum whilst being separated from a carrier ring 4 b which may be pushed onto the rubber ring 14 forming an automatic clamping apparatus, and thus, being necessarily a separate carrier ring 4 b.

Further, from the paragraph starting on page 13, line 25 of the application, it is stated that the carrier ring 4 b is able to slip on the rubber ring 14 in that specific embodiment, and thus, necessarily being a "separate" carrier ring 4 b.

Therefore the applicant believes that there is proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter in the specification.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 19-30 and 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a turned aluminum core and a rubber ring for connecting the flap-type grinding tool to a drive apparatus and a carrier ring attached to the rubber ring for holding the flaps, does not reasonably provide enablement for a device for connecting the flap type grinding tool to a drive apparatus and a separated carrier ring for holding the flaps.

Applicant believes the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection is no longer applicable to the invention as now claimed.

However, Applicant would like to point out that the paragraph starting on page 9, line 25 describes an embodiment for connecting the flap-type grinding tool to a drive apparatus in the form of a hole depicted by reference number 5 in the drawings, to receive a screw for fastening to a conventional drive spindle. The paragraph starting on page 12 line 3 of the specification discloses another embodiment of a device for connecting a flap-type grinding to a drive apparatus in the form of a shaft, reference number 11 in figure 3, directly embedded to the tool, to be received by a conventional chuck of a conventional hand-held grinding apparatus.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 19, 26, 29, 30 and 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or used the invention.

This rejection is not applicable to the invention as now claimed.

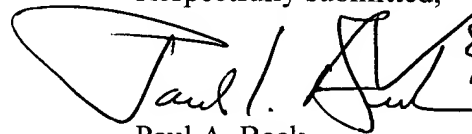
Applicant would like to point out that the rapid clamping apparatus is something used to connect the flap-type grinding tool to an external drive apparatus, and is well known in the art. It could be a separate device such as a bolt and nut or an integral part of the flap-type grinding tool, such as a nut thread formed within hole 5 of the drawing.

The Examiner has rejected claims 21, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. These claims have been canceled and the rejection is not applicable to the invention as now claimed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims now in the application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 8/4/03

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